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THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

PAUL RYAN & TOM DEFALCO
PICTURES, PLOTS & WORDS

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INKS

DAVE SHARPE
LETTERS

GINA GOINS
COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

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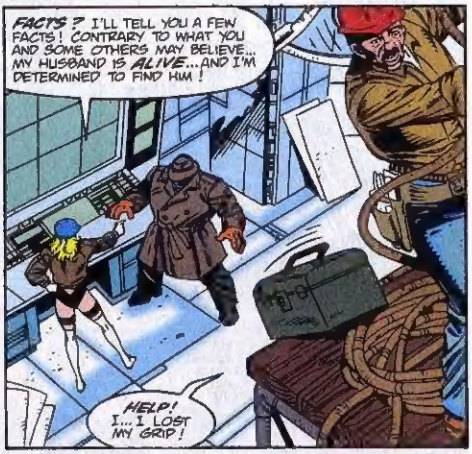
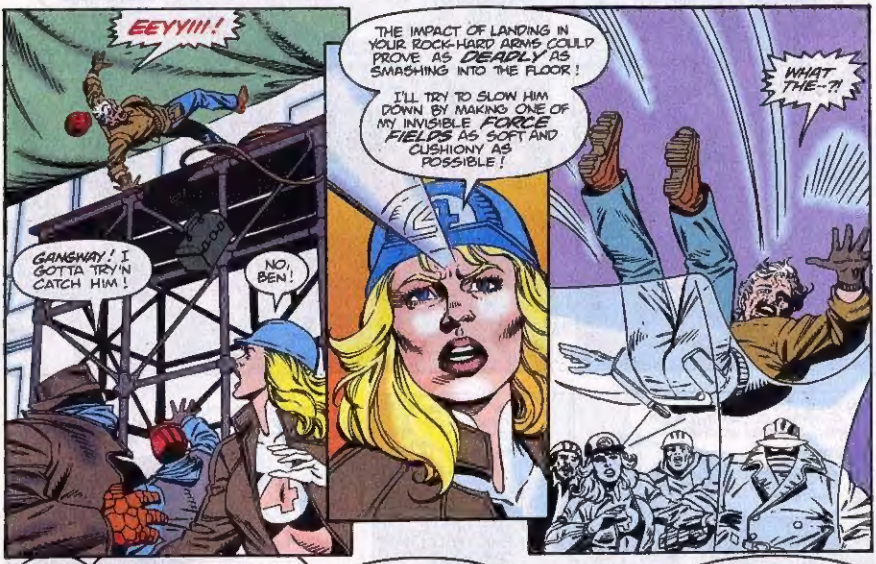
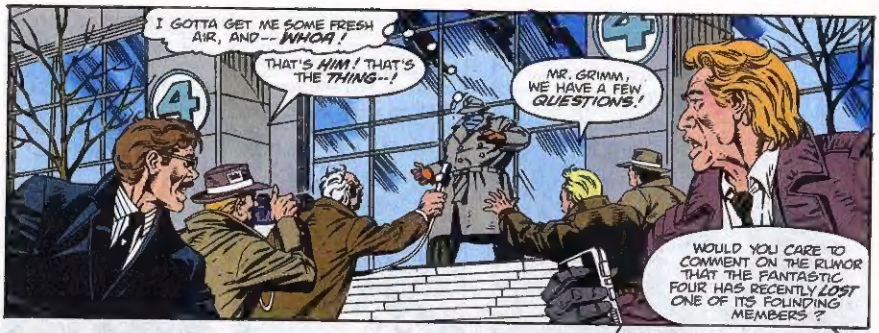
OHMIGOSH--! THAT WAS THE THING! WAIT'LL I TELL THE WIFE AND KIDS THAT I ACTUALLY SPOKE TO HIM!
THERE SHE IS-- AND LOOK WHO SHE'S GABBING WITH!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR LENDING US THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO REPAIR OUR HEADQUARTERS!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO SUZIE? BARELY FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AGO, SHE WAS FIGHTIN' FOR HER LIFE AGAINST HER OWN SON...AN' NOW SHE'S MAKIN' LIKE THE POOR MAN'S BOB VILA!
WE'LL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR DEBT, T'CHALLA!
NONSENSE! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAS OFTEN AIDED ME IN THE PAST!
I COULD DO NO LESS!
FRANKLIN IS STILL MISSIN'...AN' SO'S SHARON VENTURA, FER THAT MATTER!
WE SHOULD BE OUT HUNTIN' THEM... NOT KILLIN' TIME HERE!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE BLACK PANTHER--!
COUGH UP ANY INTERESTING HAIRBALLS LATELY?
I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU AS WELL, BEN!
I WAS JUST TELLING SUSAN THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON ME FOR WHATEVER HELP YOU MAY NEED IN YOUR SEARCH FOR REED!
HUH--?!
WE WON'T KEEP YOU ANY LONGER, T'CHALLA!
FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS!

WHAT'D YA TELL THE PANTHER ABOUT REED?
THE TRUTH! THAT HE'S CURRENTLY MISSING... AND PRESUMED A PRISONER OF DOCTOR DOOM!
AW... C'MON, SUZIE... YA GOTTA FACE FACTS!


FACTS? I'LL TELL YOU A FEW FACTS! CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU AND SOME OTHERS MAY BELIEVE... MY HUSBAND IS ALIVE... AND I'M DETERMINED TO FIND HIM!
HELP! I... I LOST MY GRIP!


EEYYIII!
GANGWAY! I GOTTA TRY'N CATCH HIM!
NO, BEN!
THE IMPACT OF LANDING IN YOUR ROCK-HARD ARMS COULD PROVE AS DEADLY AS SMASHING INTO THE FLOOR!
I'LL TRY TO SLOW HIM DOWN BY MAKING ONE OF MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELDS AS SOFT AND CUSHIONY AS POSSIBLE!
WHAT THE--?!

YOU OKAY, JAKE?
D-DID ANYONE CATCH THAT ON TAPE? I'D LOVE TO ENTER IT ON THAT HOMB VIDEO SHOW!
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, BEN... I HAVE WORK TO DO!
YEAH, SURE! I'LL GO... BUT THIS CONVERSATION AIN'T OVER!
NOT BY A LONG SHOT!

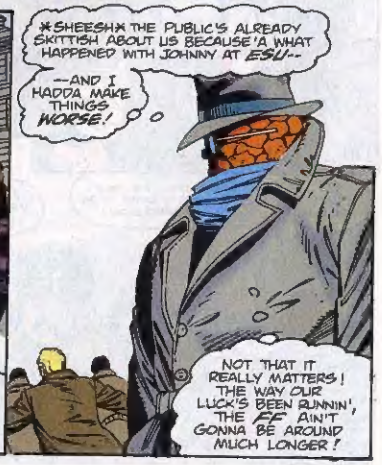

I GOTTA GET ME SOME FRESH AIR, AND-- WHOA!
THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE THING--!
MR. GRIMM, WE HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS!
WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT ON THE RUMOR THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAS RECENTLY LOST ONE OF ITS FOUNDING MEMBERS?

WHERE IS REED RICHARDS?
IS HIS DISAPPEARANCE RELATED TO THE REPORTS WE'VE BEEN RECEIVING OF POLITICAL UNREST IN LATVERIA?
WILL THE INVISIBLE WOMAN SWITCH TO A BLACK COSTUME?

GET THEM BLASTED MICROPHONES OUTTA MY FACE!
GO HASSLE SOME HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITY!
MAYBE YOU'LL STRIKE IT RICH WITH SOME FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF PRINCESS DI WASHIN' HER LINDIES!
CNN

WE'VE HEARD THAT YOUR RECENT OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT WITH EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY HAS PUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. IF THAT'S TRUE, WHO IS PAYING FOR YOUR NEW RENOVATIONS?!
THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW!

IN CASE I DIDN'T MAKE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THE FIRST TIME... LEMME ALONE!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GOING BERSERK!
RUN! HE'S AS FEROCIOUS AS THEY SAY!
THIS IS GREAT! I CAN SEE THE HEADLINES NOW, "THE THING ATTACKS REPORTERS"!


SHEESH THE PUBLIC'S ALREADY SKITTISH ABOUT US BECAUSE 'A WHAT HAPPENED WITH JOHNNY AT ESU--
--AND I HADDA MAKE THINGS WORSE!
NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS! THE WAY OUR LUCK'S BEEN RUNNIN', THE FF AIN'T GONNA BE AROUND MUCH LONGER!

THE BATTLE TO SURVIVE JUST GOT UGLY!

Two titans of terror are about to square off in the most fearsome fighting the galaxy has ever seen!

As a Predator Warrior, you'll battle dozens of deadly, double-jawed Alien beasts bent on your annihilation. But you're ready. A cloaking device makes you instantly invisible. You're armed to the teeth with spears, lasers, wristblades and killer kick-boxing maneuvers — weapons you'll need to survive all ten treacherous levels of claw-to-claw combat.

Overcome swarms of Alien drones, warriors, chestbursters and face-huggers and you still face your ultimate challenge: a monstrous battle with the Alien Queen! Alien vs Predator, now face to hideous face for the very first time on Super NES and Game Boy from Activision.

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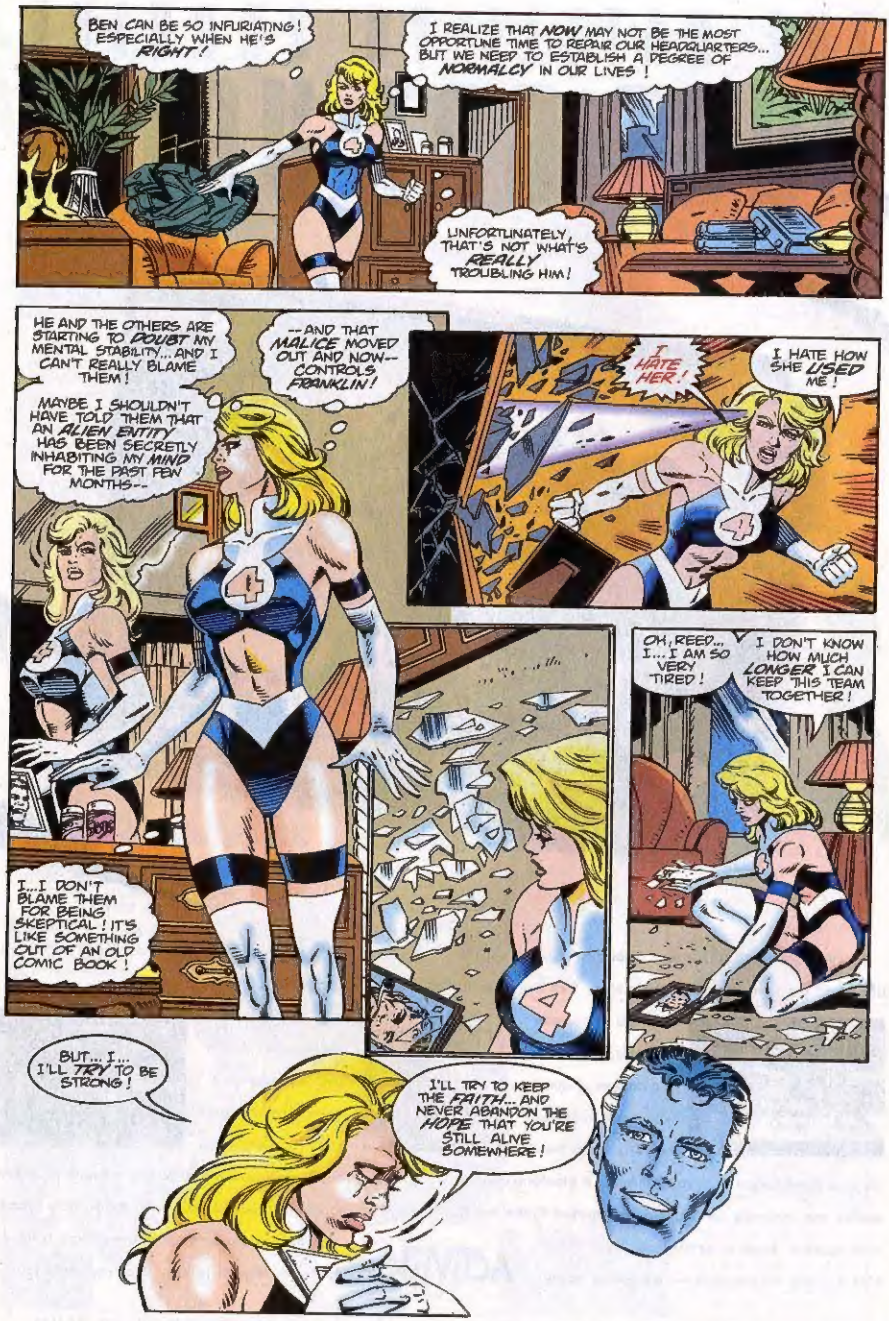
BEN CAN BE SO INFURIATING! ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S RIGHT!
I REALIZE THAT NOW MAY NOT BE THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO REPAIR OUR HEADQUARTERS... BUT WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A DEGREE OF NORMALCY IN OUR LIVES!
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S NOT WHAT'S REALLY TROUBLING HIM!
HE AND THE OTHERS ARE STARTING TO DOUBT MY MENTAL STABILITY... AND I CAN'T REALLY BLAME THEM!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD THEM THAT AN ALIEN ENTITY HAS BEEN SECRETLY INHABITING MY MIND FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS--
--AND THAT MALICE MOVED OUT AND NOW-- CONTROLS FRANKLIN!
I HATE HER!
I HATE HOW SHE USED ME!
I...I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR BEING SKEPTICAL! IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF AN OLD COMIC BOOK!
OH, REED... I... I AM SO VERY TIRED!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP THIS TEAM TOGETHER!
BUT... I... I'LL TRY TO BE STRONG!
I'LL TRY TO KEEP THE FAITH... AND NEVER ABANDON THE HOPE THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE!

MIGHT AS WELL GET THIS OVER WITH!
IT ALREADY TOOK ME WAY TOO LONG TO SCREW UP ENUFF COURAGE TO COME HERE!
GOTTA GET HOLD OF MYSELF!
I'M AS JUMPY AS A ROOKIE QUARTERBACK AT HIS FIRST SUPER BOWL!
EXCUSE ME, BIG FELLA...
...ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ALICIA MASTERS...?!
WHAT'S IT TO YA, PORS?

NOT MUCH...
ONLY SHE PACKED UP A FEW WEEKS BACK, AND MOVED OUT!
SHE'S... GONE?!

SHE MIGHT HAVE LEFT A FORWARDING ADDRESS WITH THE SUPER!
YOU WANNA LEAVE A MESSAGE?

NAH...
... IT'S OBVIOUSLY TOO LATE FER THAT!

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In a full force attack, Blade humbles Slash in China. Look at these warriors, they're huge. A wimp like Blanka wouldn't stand a chance.

In the Tournament Mode, Trident pulls a downward flying attack on Midknight. 32 players can compete here, 20 more than any other fighting game.

Check out Rax doing a few kicks in the practice mode. Name another game that lets you hone your skills before battle. Don't rack your brain, there isn't any.

The Battle Room, where the room itself can sap your strength. Here, Jetta does a little zapping of her own with a double-fisted air-dive on Shadow. Hey Johnny Cage, scared you'll get whipped by a girl?

You probably aren't prepared for such an intense fighting game. Few are. That's why we've included the Holo-Trainer and Instant Replay, to help ready you for fierce competition. You'll battle nine huge warriors, each with their own martial arts fighting style, like Jeet Kune Do and Ninjitsu. With 35 killer moves, any of these guys could kick Guile's butt. Get good enough and you'll discover all the cool Overkills. Prepare yourself. Because when it comes to pain, its better to give than receive.

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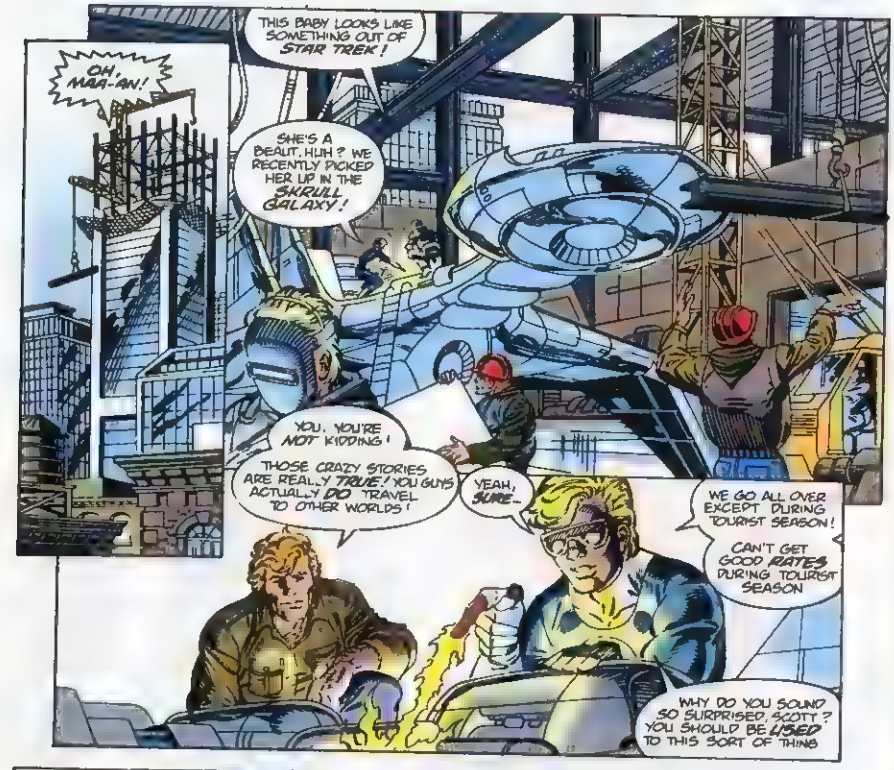
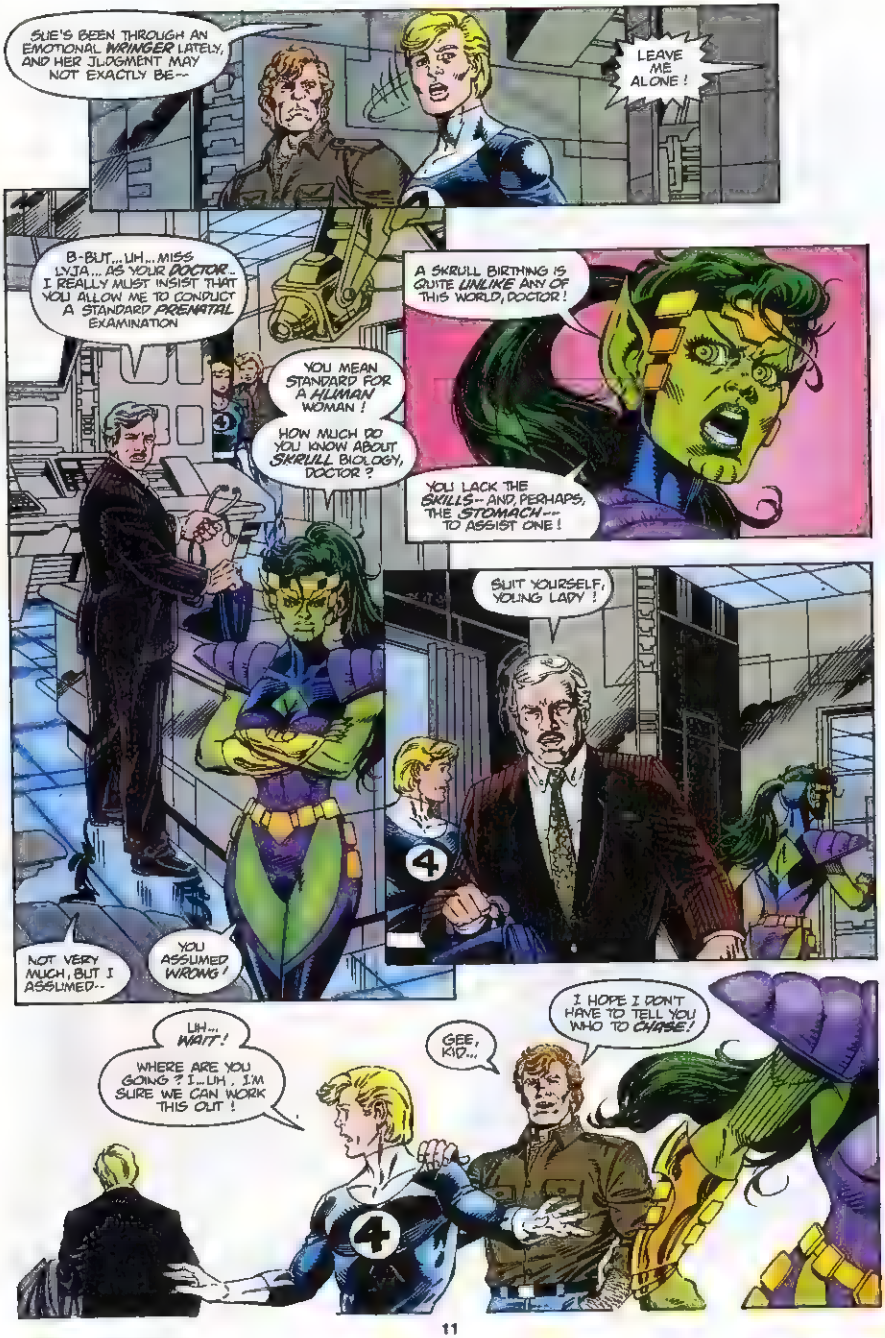
CHAMPIONS


OH, MAA-AN!
THIS BABY LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF STAR TREK!
SHE'S A BEAUT, HUH? WE RECENTLY PICKED HER UP IN THE SKRULL GALAXY!
YOU. YOU'RE NOT KIDDING!
THOSE CRAZY STORIES ARE REALLY TRUE! YOU GUYS ACTUALLY DO TRAVEL TO OTHER WORLDS!
YEAH, SURE...
WE GO ALL OVER EXCEPT DURING TOURIST SEASON!
CAN'T GET GOOD RATES DURING TOURIST SEASON
WHY DO YOU SOUND SO SURPRISED, SCOTT? YOU SHOULD BE USED TO THIS SORT OF THING

AFTER ALL.. YOU ARE THE ASTONISHING ANT MAN!
YEAH... THE HERO WITH THE STRENGTH OF AN AVERAGE MAN!
GIVE ME A BREAK, JOHNNY!
NO PUN INTENDED, BUT-- IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY GUESSED--MY ADVENTURES TEND TO BE ON A LOT SMALLER SCALE THAN YOURS!

I'M STILL AMAZED YOUR SISTER HIRED ME TO FILL IN AS YOUR TECHNICAL ADVISOR!
DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD!
IT'S ONLY YOUR ELECTRONICS BACKGROUND THAT ATTRACTS HER!
SO I'VE NOTICED..

SHE HAS ME WORKING ON THIS COMPUTER.. WHICH SHE'S CONVINCED... HOLDS THE LOCATION OF WHERE DOOM STASHED DR RICHARDS.
YEAH.. WELL.. I WOULDN'T EXACTLY HOLD MY BREATH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


SUE'S BEEN THROUGH AN EMOTIONAL WRINGER LATELY, AND HER JUDGMENT MAY NOT EXACTLY BE--
LEAVE ME ALONE!
B-BUT...UH...MISS LYJA... AS YOUR DOCTOR... I REALLY MUST INSIST THAT YOU ALLOW ME TO CONDUCT A STANDARD PRENATAL EXAMINATION
A SKRULL BIRTHING IS QUITE UNLIKE ANY OF THIS WORLD, DOCTOR!
YOU MEAN STANDARD FOR A HUMAN WOMAN!
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SKRULL BIOLOGY, DOCTOR?
YOU LACK THE SKILLS-- AND, PERHAPS, THE STOMACH-- TO ASSIST ONE!
SUIT YOURSELF, YOUNG LADY!
NOT VERY MUCH, BUT I ASSUMED--
YOU ASSUMED WRONG!
UH... WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I...UH... I'M SURE WE CAN WORK THIS OUT!
GEE, KID...
I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHO TO CHASE!

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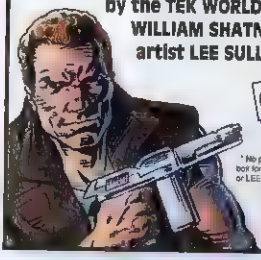

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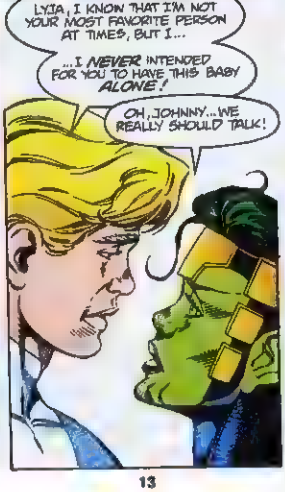
SCOTT'S RIGHT! WE CAN ALWAYS HIRE ANOTHER DOCTOR!
SLOW DOWN, LADY! WE HAVE TO TALK
YOU'RE HARDER TO CATCH THAN GOOD LUCK!

I HOPE YOU WON'T TRY TO CONVINCE ME TO USE THAT, THAT INCOMPETENT... INSENSITIVE... CRETINOUS FOOL!
NO WAY! I'M WITH YOU!
THE MAN'S A MONSTER!

HOWEVER, I DO THINK YOU SHOULD TRY SOMEONE ELSE!
ISN'T IT BETTER TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF SAFETY... WHEN IT CONCERNS THE BABY!
WELL... PERHAPS... I DID OVERREACT

YOU--?!
NEVER!
DON'T PUSH IT, JOHNNY!
I LIKE YOU SUPPORTIVE... BUT NOT OBNOXIOUSLY SO!


LYJA, I KNOW THAT I'M NOT YOUR MOST FAVORITE PERSON AT TIMES, BUT I...
...I NEVER INTENDED FOR YOU TO HAVE THIS BABY ALONE!
OH, JOHNNY... WE REALLY SHOULD TALK!

BEEP BEEP BEEP
THE EMERGENCY MONITOR--!
HOLD THAT THOUGHT! DUTY MAY CALL, BUT--
--I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

THE WARMTH IN LYJA'S VOICE
THAT SOUND IS MUSIC TO MY EARS!
SHE'S FINALLY STARTING TO COME AROUND!
WELL, WHATTA YOU KNOW? SOMETHING STILL WORKS ON THIS BURNED OUT DUMP WE CALL A HEAD-QUARTERS!
GETTING THE EQUIPMENT BACK ON LINE IS SCOTT'S JOB...WHEN HE'S NOT WORKING ON SUE'S SPECIAL PROJECT!
BUT WHO COULD BE TRYING TO CONTACT US AT THIS.
HOLY MACKEREL! THE SUB-MARINER!
I HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR JUVENILE PUNS, JOHNNY STORM. I MUST SPEAK WITH REED RICHARDS.
UH...NO CAN DO, NAMOR!
YOU ARROGANT, YOUNG EGOTISTICAL CLOD! THE EARTH MAY BE IN SEVERE PERIL, AND YOU--
REED'S... DEAD!
DEAD--?! HOW?
HOW IS SUSAN?
NOT GOOD! SHE'S IN A COMPLETE STATE OF DENIAL.
AND THAT'S ONLY ONE OF HER CURRENT PROBLEMS!
I SHARE THE DEEP SORROW OF YOUR LOSS!
PLEASE EXPRESS MY SENTIMENTS TO THE OTHERS!
NAMOR-- WAIT!
NOW WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
REED PROGRAMMED THIS BABY SO THAT IT WOULD INSTANTLY RECORD AND TRACE ALL INCOMING TRANSMISSIONS!
I CAN EASILY REESTABLISH A LINK WITH NAMOR, AND-- UH-OH!

A THIRD NEVER GETS THAT OPTION. (BUT THAT'S A STORY IN ITSELF!) ANYWAY, SOMETIME LATER...

WHY'S EVERYBODY HERE IN THE MAP ROOM? CAN'T A GUY GO OUT FOR SOME FRESH AIR WITHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD FALLIN' APART ?!

APPARENTLY NOT, BIG FELLA!

AN EMERGENCY CALL FROM THE SUB-MARINER CAME IN WHILE YOU WERE GONE... BUT HE BROKE OFF BEFORE I COULD GET THE FULL STORY!

SOME KIND OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC DISRUPTION PREVENTED ME FROM TRACING HIS TRANSMISSIONS!

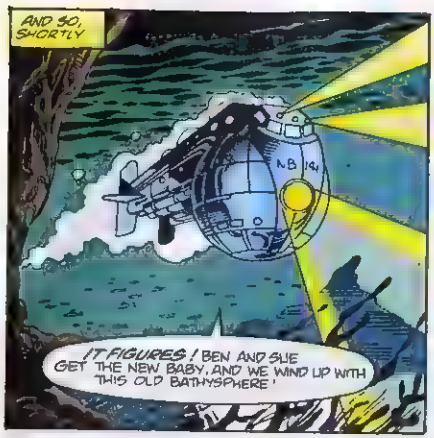
REED'S EQUIPMENT MANAGED TO PINPOINT THE TWO SOURCES FOR THIS DISRUPTION, AND SOMETHING MORE...

AS NUTTY AS THIS SOUNDS... THE EARTH SEEMS TO BE TILTING ON IT'S AXIS!

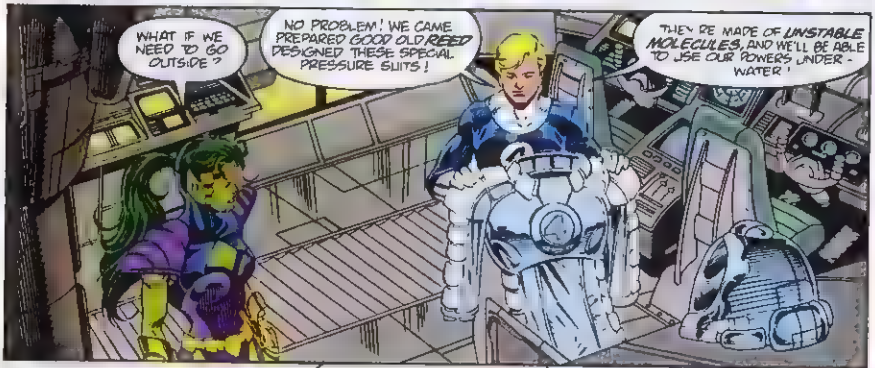
I'LL TELL YA SOMETHIN' EVEN NUTTIER... ME LISTENIN' TO YOU MOUTH OFF LIKE SOME CORNBALL TV COMMENTATOR!

BEN! THIS IS SERIOUS!

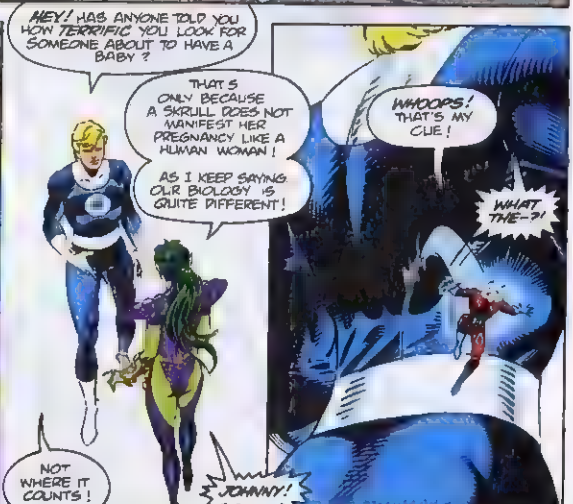
EVEN A MINUTE AXIAL SHIFT COULD MELT THE ICECAPS!
LUCKILY, WE'RE STILL WITHIN THE SAFETY ZONE ACCORDING TO THESE SATELLITE PHOTOS... BUT THAT WON'T LAST LONG!
THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT NAMOR CALLED ABOUT...
UNLESS FRANKLIN IS SOMEHOW BEHIND IT!
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH THE REST OF YOU, JAJA AND I WILL CHECK OUT THE ANOMALY LOCATED NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE AMAZON RIVER!
SWELL! I REALLY HATE GETTIN' WET BEHIND THE EARS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT NO CHOICE!
LET'S CHOOSE UP SIDES... AND HEAD SEAWARD!
GUESS THAT LEAVES THE ONE AT THE MARIANAS TRENCH FOR ME'N SUZIE!
GOOD! I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER IN CASE SHE STARTS HEARIN' MORE "VOICES"!
WHAT ABOUT ME? HOW CAN I HELP?
YOU WATCH THE PLACE WHILE WE'RE GONE!
AND KEEP WORKING ON DOOM'S COMPUTER!
IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF FINDING MY HUSBAND!
YEAH... SURE!
I UNDERSTAND!
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT!

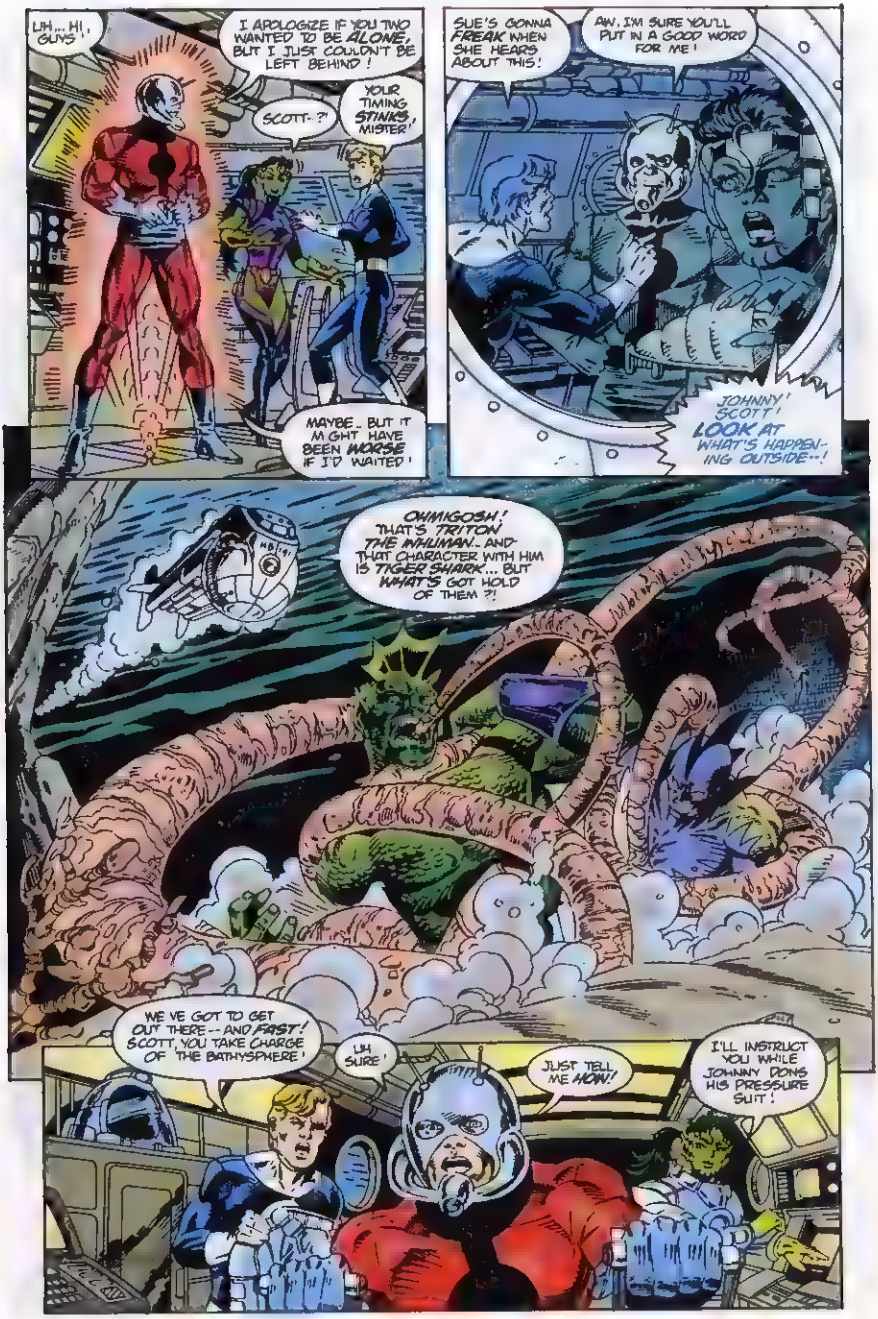

AND SO, SHORTLY
NB 14
IT FIGURES! BEN AND SUE GET THE NEW BABY, AND WE WIND UP WITH THIS OLD BATHYSPHERE!

PERHAPS, THE DECIDING FACTOR WAS THE FACT THAT BEN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PILOT THE OTHER SHIP!
PICKY! PICKY!
BESIDES, I STILL ONE H.M FOR THAT COMMENTATOR CRACK!


WHAT IF WE NEED TO GO OUTSIDE?
NO PROBLEM! WE CAME PREPARED GOOD OLD REED DESIGNED THESE SPECIAL PRESSURE SUITS!
THEY'RE MADE OF UNSTABLE MOLECULES, AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO USE OUR POWERS UNDER-WATER!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, JOHNNY? YOU SUDDENLY SEEM DISTRACTED.
JUST THINKING ABOUT REED.
...HE REALLY WAS THE GREATEST.
I KNOW!


HEY! HAS ANYONE TOLD YOU HOW TERRIFIC YOU LOOK FOR SOMEONE ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY?
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE A SKRULL DOES NOT MANIFEST HER PREGNANCY LIKE A HUMAN WOMAN!
AS I KEEP SAYING OUR BIOLOGY IS QUITE DIFFERENT!
NOT WHERE IT COUNTS!
WHOOPS! THAT'S MY CUE!
WHAT THE--?!
JOHNNY!


UH... HI, GUYS!
I APOLOGIZE IF YOU TWO WANTED TO BE ALONE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T BE LEFT BEHIND!
SCOTT-?
YOUR TIMING STINKS, MISTER!
MAYBE... BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE IF I'D WAITED!
SUE'S GONNA FREAK WHEN SHE HEARS ABOUT THIS!
AW, I'M SURE YOU'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME!
JOHNNY! SCOTT! LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE--!
OHMIGOSH! THAT'S TRITON THE INHUMAN... AND THAT CHARACTER WITH HIM IS TIGER SHARK... BUT WHAT'S GOT HOLD OF THEM?!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT THERE -- AND FAST! SCOTT, YOU TAKE CHARGE OF THE BATHYSPHERE!
UH SURE!
JUST TELL ME HOW!
I'LL INSTRUCT YOU WHILE JOHNNY DONS HIS PRESSURE SUIT!

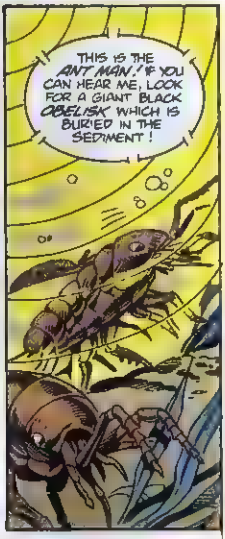
BARELY A MOMENT LATER, OUR HEROES STREAK FROM THEIR SHIP, ENCASED IN THEIR PROTECTIVE SUITS, BUT.
THEY'VE ALREADY VANISHED BENEATH THE OOZE!
THERE'S STILL TIME... IF WE CAN BLAST THROUGH THESE GIANT TENTACLES!
FLAMES AND LASERS QUICKLY EXPOSE THE STRUGGLING FIGURES, AND THEN...
IT WORKED! OUR EFFORTS HAVE FREED THEM, BUT--!
THE ONE CALLED TIGER SHARK IS DAZED AND IS INSTINCTIVELY LASHING OUT AT HIS NEAREST ENEMY!
I MUST NOW PUT THIS PRESSURE SUIT TO THE TEST!
AS A SKRULL, I CAN EASILY SHAPE-SHIFT INTO ANOTHER FORM, BUT, WILL MY SUIT TRANSFORM WITH ME-- EVEN MADE OF UNSTABLE MOLECULES?
AH.. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO QUESTION THE GENIUS OF REED RICHARDS!
EASY, MY FRIEND! I MEAN YOU NO HARM! RELAX, AND I SHALL CARRY YOU TO THE SAFETY OF OUR SHIP!
AND, SHORTLY
I.. I DIDN'T MEAN TO ATTACK THE LADY!
TRUST ME SHE'S TOUGHER THAN SHE LOOKS!
JOHNNY...
ER.. HOW'S 'ABOUT YOU FILL US IN ON WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT DOESN'T MATTER! NOTHING MATTERS ANYMORE!
TAMARA'S DEAD!
MURDERED BY THOSE GIANT TENTACLES!

NOT NECESSARILY! AS A FORMER SKRULL LIAISON OFFICER, I RECOGNIZE THE TECHNOLOGY AT WORK HERE!
IF MY GUEST IS RIGHT, YOUR FRIEND IS NOW A PRISONER ABOARD A CONSTRUCT KNOWN AS A PLANETARY THRUSTER!
IF THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE SHE'S ALIVE--?!

I MUST FIRST PREPARE A CHEMICAL COATING WHICH WILL PREVENT THOSE ORGANIC-LIKE TENTACLES FROM ENTERING YOUR BODY, AND CONTROLLING YOUR MIND!
THEN, WE MUST LEARN THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE THRUSTER!
PERHAPS THAT'S WHERE I CAN HELP--!

DESCRIBE THIS THRUSTER THINGAMAJIG TO ME! IF THERE ARE ANY CREATURES EVEN CLOSE TO THE ANT FAMILY DOWN HERE... THERE'S A REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY'LL RESPOND TO MY CYBERNETIC HELMET!


THIS IS THE ANT MAN! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, LOOK FOR A GIANT BLACK OBELISK WHICH IS BURIED IN THE SEDIMENT!

MANY TENSION-FILLED MINUTES PASS BEFORE THE TINY SEA CREATURES RESPOND AND THEN
CALLING ANT MAN! CALLING ANT MAN! WE HAVE FOUND THE OBJECT YOU SEEK!
AND EVEN AS SCOTT LANG RELAYS THAT INFORMATION TO HIS ANXIOUS COMRADES--

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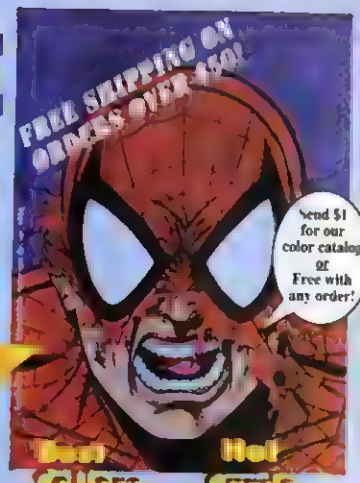

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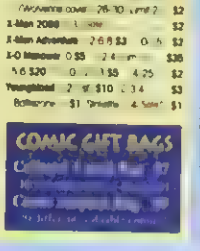

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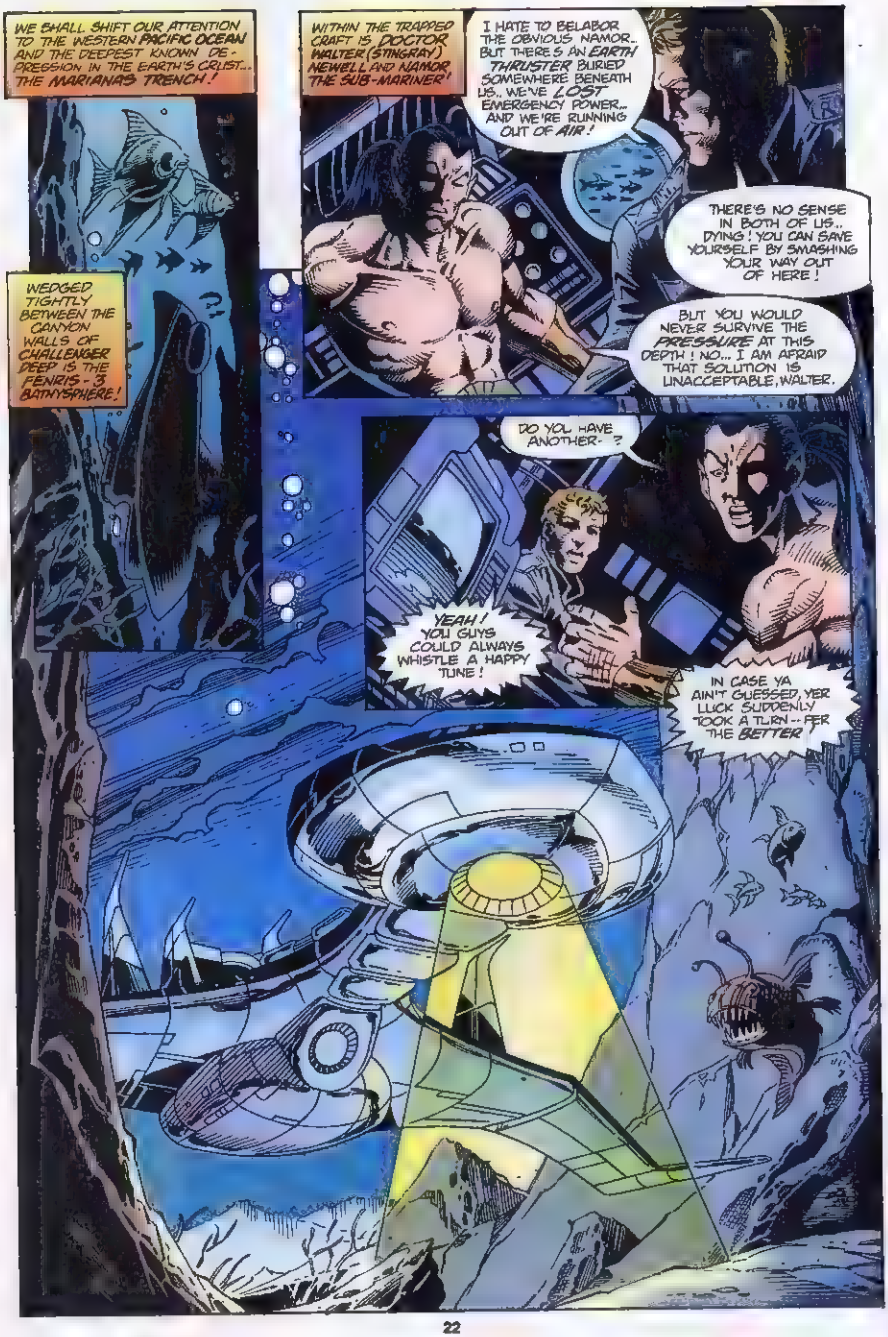
WE SHALL SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN AND THE DEEPEST KNOWN DEPRESSION IN THE EARTH'S CRUST... THE MARIANAS TRENCH!
WITHIN THE TRAPPED CRAFT IS DOCTOR WALTER (STINGRAY) NEWELL AND NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER!
I HATE TO BELABOR THE OBVIOUS NAMOR.. BUT THERE'S AN EARTH THRUSTER BURIED SOMEWHERE BENEATH US.. WE'VE LOST EMERGENCY POWER... AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF AIR!
THERE'S NO SENSE IN BOTH OF US.. DYING! YOU CAN SAVE YOURSELF BY SMASHING YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE!
BUT YOU WOULD NEVER SURVIVE THE PRESSURE AT THIS DEPTH! NO... I AM AFRAID THAT SOLUTION IS UNACCEPTABLE, WALTER.
WEDGED TIGHTLY BETWEEN THE CANYON WALLS OF CHALLENGER DEEP IS THE FENRIS-3 BATHYSPHERE!
DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER- ?
YEAH! YOU GUYS COULD ALWAYS WHISTLE A HAPPY TUNE!
IN CASE YA AIN'T GUESSED, YER LUCK SUDDENLY TOOK A TURN -- FER THE BETTER!

THAT'S A REAL CUTESY SUB YA GOT THERE, BUBBY! YA BUY IT FROM THE HOME SHOPPIN' CLUB?

ME, I STICK WITH THE SHAPER IMAGE CATALOG!

STOP CLOWNING AROUND, BEN! I'VE ALREADY FLOODED THE AIRLOCK!

BRING THEM ABOARD WITH THE TRACTOR BEAM... BUT BE CAREFUL!

YOU KIDDIN'?! I'LL BE AS GENTLE AS A MOTHER'S KISS!

TRUE TO HIS WORD, BEN SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY SECURES THE FENRIS-3, AND THEN...

SUSAN! I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE YOU HERE!

REAL LIFE CAN BE SO CHOCK-FULL OF SURPRISES!

YA'D BETTER WIPE THEM FEET, BUSTER! I DON'T WANTCHA TRACKIN' ANY MUD INTO MY NICE CLEAN SPACESHIP!

SUSAN, I...I HEARD ABOUT REED... AND WISH TO EXTEND MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY!

I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT... IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT... WE... WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FRIENDS!

YOU MAY STILL GET THE CHANCE, NAMOR!

BUT, I THOUGHT...

I KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT. IT'S A POPULAR OPINION. I JUST DON'T HAPPEN TO SHARE IT.

LET'S GO TO THE COCKPIT WHERE YOU CAN EXPLAIN THE SITUATION DOWN HERE!

WAS IT MY IMAGINATION OR WAS FISHFACE BUMMED TO HEAR THAT SUE STILL THINKS REED'S ALIVE?

NAH! EVEN OL' SUBBY WOULD HAVE MORE CLASS THAN TO--HEY?!

WE PICKED UP A HITCHHIKER, BUT... WHAT IS IT?

He Who Hesitates Eats Mylar.®

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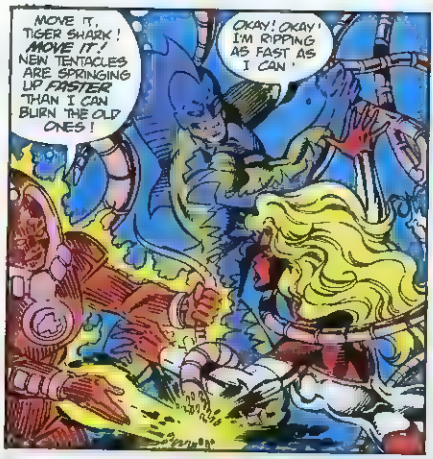
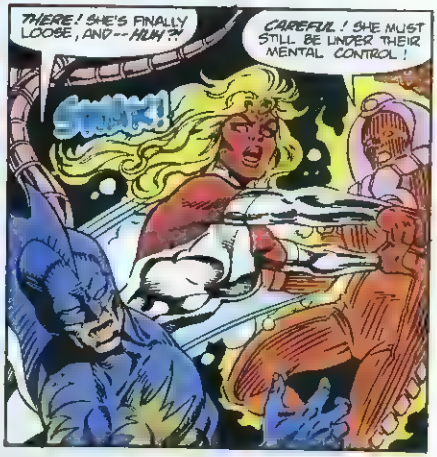
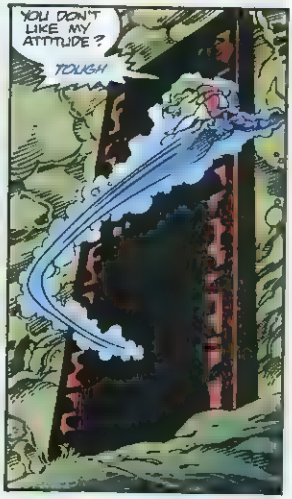
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE BASE OF THE AMAZON...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE DELIBERATELY SURRENDERED TO THESE TENTACLES!
IT MAY NOT BE MUCH OF A PLAN, BUT IT'S ALL WE HAVE!
AT LEAST LYJA'S CHEMICAL SPRAY IS WORKING!
THEY AREN'T EVEN ATTEMPTING TO ENTER OUR ORIFICES!
THIS IS THE FASTEST WAY TO ENTER THE THRUSTER! JUST TRY TO RELAX--
--AND ENJOY THE RIDE!
WE DID IT! WE'RE INSIDE!
BUT THIS PLACE MUST BE SOME KIND OF POCKET DIMENSION BECAUSE IT'S SO MUCH BIGGER THAN IT APPEARS ON THE OUTSIDE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC GOOBLYGOOK! LOOK! THERE'S TAMARA--
--BUT I DON'T THINK SHE'S BREATHING!
THIS IS NO TIME TO PANIC, TIGER SHARK! REMEMBER OUR PLAN!
TRITON'S RIGHT! IT'S OUR JOB TO FREE HER! BUT WE HAVE TO WORK FAST! MY FLAME WON'T LAST LONG DOWN HERE!
FOLLOW ME, TRITON! I'LL LEAD YOU TO THE CONTROL CENTER!

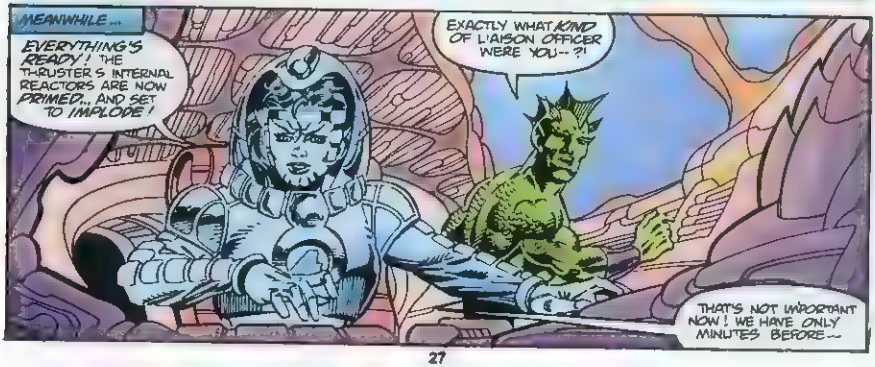

MOVE IT, TIGER SHARK! MOVE IT! NEW TENTACLES ARE SPRINGING UP FASTER THAN I CAN BURN THE OLD ONES!
OKAY! OKAY! I'M RIPPING AS FAST AS I CAN!


THERE! SHE'S FINALLY LOOSE, AND--HUH?!
CAREFUL! SHE MUST STILL BE UNDER THEIR MENTAL CONTROL!
Shunk!

THAT DON'T MATTER TO ME! I AIN'T LEAVING WITHOUT HER!
YOU CAN THANK ME FOR THIS LATER, DOLL!

I'M GETTING HER OUT WHILE SHE'S STILL MANAGEABLE!
YOU AND THE OTHERS CAN DROWN FOR ALL I CARE!
IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU, TOO!


YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTITUDE?
TOUGH!


MEANWHILE...
EVERYTHING'S READY! THE THRUSTER'S INTERNAL REACTORS ARE NOW PRIMED., AND SET TO IMPLODE!
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF LIAISON OFFICER WERE YOU--?!
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW! WE HAVE ONLY MINUTES BEFORE--

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Music, it is said, has charms to soothe the Bouncing Beast. Well, it also does a pretty good job on our Marvelous scripters and sketchers.

To initiate our all-new Question of the Month Feature, we thought we'd ask a bunch of Marvelords the following question: **"What kind of music do you listen to when you are doing your work?"**

Here's what they had to say.

INCREDIBLE HULK inker **Cam Smith** likes to really pump up the volume when he works. Cam said he likes "The Ramones ... or anything loud like that!"

EXCALIBUR editor **Suzanne Gaffney** has musical tastes as diverse as the Knights of the Round Table. Suzanne goes for everything from Queen Latifah's "Nature of Sista" to k.d. lang's "Ingenue."

Bullpenner **Steve Bunche** targets "King Missile or Gwar." Another Gwar fan is BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD writer **Mike Lackey,** who also flips for "Frank Zappa or the Ramones" but the music Mike plays most frequently is the mo' better jazz of Miles Davis!

New X-FORCE penciler **Tony Daniel** prefers the Fab Force. As Tony put it, "I've always listened to the Beatles, ever since I was a kid. Unless I'm in a hurry to meet a deadline, if I really need to get pumped up, then I tune in to a local jazz station and it really gets my pulse pounding!"

PINHEAD editor (no insult intended) **Tom Daning** said it was easy to pin down his answer. Tom listens to no music when he works! Tom said, sternly: "I listen to Howard Stern and nothing else!"

TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2 artist **Manny Galan** — whose drawing table can transform into a turntable — listens to music for inspiration. His choices are "the Smiths and the Cure." (Everybody make sure you listen to what the Manny said!) TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2 back-up artist **Derek Yaniger,** who is not a robot in disguise — goes for "really grungy, heavy, hard-core stuff — Gwar, Nirvana. I like my music beefy and extra-meaty!"

Assistant editor **James Felder** tries to keep up with the times. Pontificated the Prof, "I like to listen to some of the hep, swingin' rock and roll the kids are into these days. I really dig that crazy new sound!"

BARBIE FASHION artist **Barb Rausch,** like Tom Daning, works in a music-free zone. Said Barb, "I watch trash TV, and reruns, and cartoons — I'm enjoying *Animaniacs* right now!"

BARBIE inker **Mario Capaldi** said "My favorite music is opera, being as I'm Italian. But I really like anything, as long as it's good. I like songs that prove to stand the test of time ... songs by people like Simon & Garfunkle, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the Eagles."

Staff colorist **Paul Becton** said that when he starts slapping down some hues, he likes to groove to the sounds of "big band jazz."

UNCANNY X-MEN inker **Dan Green** is quite an uncanny musician himself — he plays the electric guitar, electric bass, and blues harmonica! For his listening pleasure, Dan prefers "chamber music — string quartet or piano. Bach's Goldberg variation." Dan used to play professionally, but now finds "it's a lot nicer working at home than working in bars!"

Paste-up guy **Peter Cooper** (or, "Paste-Up Pete," as he's known in these parts) is partial to "any of the Seattle invasion people — Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Temple of the Dog. I listen to a lot of different things, but mostly rock and roll."

Finally, no page on music would be complete without a word from rock 'n' roll editor **Mort Todd,** who said, "I listen to Japanese horror movie soundtracks, especially Ghidrah the Three-Headed Monster. Also, since I'm the rock editor, I like to hear soundtracks of Godzilla throwing rocks at stuff!"

Till next time, keep on rockin' in the free world!

THE BULL'S EYE by RICK PARKER

HYPE BOX

You remember last year's THE TRIAL OF VENOM benefit comic Marvel did to raise funds for the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse? Sure you do. Well, this year we've tapped Peter David and Jim Craig to produce another sensational one-shot for the NCPCA, this one entitled THE HULK VS. VENOM! Available by mail order only, the 32 page special will feature an original story pitting these two ill-tempered titans against one another for the first time, packaged in a gorgeous metallic foil cover, and sent first class in a plastic backing envelope! Three dollars of the five dollar cover price will go straight to the NCPCA. Look for a coupon in your favorite Marvel mag or at a retail store near you and help a worthy cause while investing in one heckuva comic book!

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- **BRATS BIZARRE #4 OF 4:** Will they be cured kids — or post mortem punks? By Mills-Skinner/Mighten
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE MEDUSA EFFECT:** 64 page Cap and Bucky epic set in World War 2! By Thomas/Buckler-Wyman.
- **CURSE OF THE WEIRD #4 OF 4:** It's monsterrific! By Everett, Ditko, et al
- **GHOST RIDER #47:** Vengeance takes to the streets as the new Ghost Rider! By Mackie/Garney/Ivy!
- **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #46:** Will we ever see Major Victory again? By Gallagher/West/Montano!
- **HARROWERS #4:** They'd walk a Nile to save Cleopatra's soul! By Smith/Lopez/Garzon
- **HYPERKIND #7:** A Hulk lies in a nursery rhyme — and it ain't Humpty Dumpty! By Burke/Collins/Petrocca!
- **MARVEL X-MEN COLLECTION BY JIM LEE #3 OF 3:** Reprinting the X-cellent trading cards!
- **NIGHT THRASHER #6:** Secrets of Bandit revealed — and no, he's not Burt Reynolds! By Nicieza/Butler
- **NOVA #3:** With Spider-Man and "Fear Is the Corrupter!" By Nicieza/Marinari/Stegbauer!
- **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #25:** Frank's in jail — or is he? By Hama/Buscema/Mayerick
- **QUASAR #56:** Do you dare enter the *New Universe?*
- **RAVAGE 2099 #16:** Ravage is gonna clean up the future! By Mills-Skinner/Mignin/Williams
- **SECRET DEFENDERS #13:** The new leader of the Secret Defenders is ... Thanos! By Marz/Grindberg/Hudson
- **THE SHROUD #1 OF 4:** Spidey guest stars in a battle with the Scorpion! By Barr/Wyman/Jones III
- **SILVER SABLE #22:** The taking of Beverly Hills — and we don't mean the Hillbillies! By Wright/Butler/Fiklund
- **SLEEPWALKER #33:** *Final issue!* The big sleep ends here! By Budiansky/Kranz/Lomax!
- **WOLVERINE #79:** Now 100% adamantium free! By Hama/Kubert/Farmer!
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- **X-Factor #100:** Double sized action as an X-Factorite X-piles! By Lee/Liefeld/Lopez/Mignon
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ARRGGH.
WHAT IS IT, LYJA ? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU ?!
T-THE BABY--!
THE EXCITEMENT AND TENSION MUST BE RESPONSIBLE!
IT'S COMING!
HERE--?! NOW--?!?
OH, NO! MY FLAME HAS ALREADY DIED OUT! JUST WHEN SHE NEEDS ME THE MOST
YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE YOUR PART, JOHNNY STORM!
TRITON CAN DO NO LESS!
ONLY I CAN SWIM FASTER THAN THE DARTING FISH WITH MORE POWER THAN THE POUNDING SURF!
BUR--ROOM

WHILE TRITON SWINGS TO SAFETY, WE SHALL BRIEFLY RETURN TO THE STEALTH-HAWK...

AS CRAZY AS THIS SOUNDS, AN ALIEN BY THE NAME OF XLYYM THE FORMALLAUTT IS ATTEMPTING TO USE THESE EARTH-THRUSTERS TO FLOOD OUR PLANET!

AND HE SEEMS TO BE WORKING FOR A BAND OF SPACE PIRATES KNOWN AS THE STAR BLASTERS!

I'M SURE I'VE HEARD EVEN CORNIER NAMES IN MY TIME.. BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR HUMOR, SUSAN! XLYYM EMPLOYS A PARTICULARLY REPULSIVE WEAPON...

A MIND-CONTROLLING SYMBIONT WHICH ADHERES TO ITS VICTIM'S SKULL!

OF COURSE, OUR FIRST DUTY IS TO ELIMINATE THE THRUSTER WHICH IS HIDDEN BENEATH US! HOW MUCH DEEPER CAN THIS SHIP DIVE?

THE SKRULLS BUILT THE STEALTH-HAWK TO WITHSTAND THE RIGORS OF DEEP SPACE! I'M SURE SHE CAN GO WHEREVER WE WANT!

BUT BEN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PILOT HER! I WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING HIM?

YA WANT ME--?

WELL HERE I AM...

AND I'M LOOKIN' FER BLOOD!

TO BE CONTINUED IN NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER #48!

Fantastic Forum

Dear Roy & Ann,

[illegible]

Charles Wyzard
Harlem

[illegible]

There's much to enjoy in the Silver Surfer book. Charles, the ending we want to see the FF look better with each passing issue. As for the Fantastic Three thing, don't hold your breath. After the events of last issue, we're telling the survivors' side of story one, but from that direction. Nobody dies, but everyone's shaken.

Dear Marvel,

[illegible]

Marvel Enterprises
New York, N.Y.

[illegible]

1) Absolute probability
2) Endless possibilities

[illegible]

Dear Roy & Ann,

[illegible]

Why didn't you get something like [illegible] he couldn't wait to read the next issue? [illegible] Maximoff. So, until the thing [illegible]

Dennis Smith
[illegible]

Of course he is [illegible]. Just not the way anyone could expect. After we [illegible] the ocean floor's great waste, we'll be facing the FF [illegible] a [illegible] cooler side of doom. No spoil puns mentioned. And the thing you'll hear [illegible] Dennis. We will need you to support your brother [illegible] much-needed bases of [illegible]

[illegible]

Doom of DOOM now has never been confined at least a little Doom of our present. For all we know, the cause [illegible]

NEXT ISSUE: More STARBLAST mayhem, and the birth of Lyja's... child? See you in thirty!

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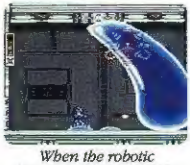

When the robotic amoeba glues "X" to the ground, either he shoots or he's stuck.

"X" destroys an enemy submarine fuel tank and things get extremely explosive.

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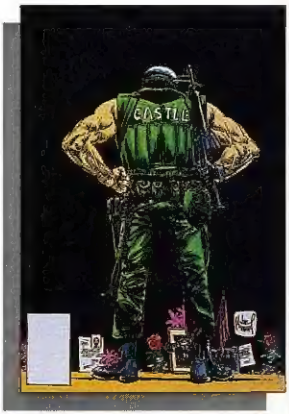
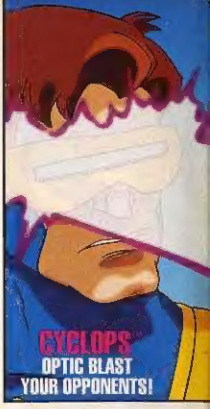
AFTER LIVING IN SECLUSION ON A REMOTE ISLAND, NIGHTWATCH HOPES HE'S BACK IN TIME TO SAVE HIS FUTURE. BUT WITH A DANGEROUS NEW VILLAIN, BARRAGE, RUNNING RAMPANT IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK AND A CLASH WITH SPIDER-MAN, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HISTORY. BY TERRY KAVANAGH, RON LIM AND AL MILGROM. AND WITH A SPECIAL PRISMATIC FOIL TREATMENT, EVEN THE COVER'S AHEAD OF ITS TIME—WATCH FOR IT.

PUNISHER IN 'NAM: FINAL MISSION

AFTER A U.S. B-52 IS SHOT DOWN IN 'NAM, FRANK CASTLE AND TROOPS STAGE A TERRIFYING RESCUE ATTEMPT. THIS ISSUE ALSO DESCRIBES THE CRUCIAL EVENTS THAT LED TO THE DEATH OF FRANK'S FAMILY AND BIRTH OF THE PUNISHER. BY DON LOMAX AND ALBERTO SAICHANN. COVER BY THE LEGENDARY JOE KUBERT.





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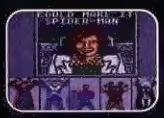

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